NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report
Cooperative Crop Reporting Service
No. 170 RALEIGH, N. C. OCTOBER 14, 1954

FLUE-CURED ESTIMATE DOWN 8 MILLION POUNDS

Based primarily upon recent reports from farmers and upon warehouse sales data, the October 1 estimate of the 1954 flue-cured tobacco crop was set at 915,750,000 pounds -- about 8 million pounds less than a month earlier. The decline in expected production took place wholly in Border Belt areas. The State's total flue-cured crop as now forecast is about 10 percent larger than the 832,305,000 pounds harvested last year and is about 13 percent heavier than the 1943-52 average.

Estimates by areas show that Type 11 production is presently set at 325,850,000 pounds -- meaning an average yield of 1,225 pounds per acre. Last year, production from the drought-stricken Type 11 crop was only 261,870,000 pounds, while the average yield per acre was 1,015 pounds.

(See "TOBACCO" Page 2)

SMALLEST CORN CROP SINCE 1944

Based on reports from growers as of October 1, the Tar Heel corn crop is forecast at 53,425,000 bushels. A crop of this size would be the lowest production of corn since 1944. It would also be 7.4 percent less than last year's poor crop of 57,699,000 bushels.

The current yield forecast of 25 bushels per acre is the lowest since 1945 when the average yield per acre was also 25 bushels.

Harvesting of the current crop is well under way in eastern counties and approximately 20 percent of the State's crop had been harvested as of October 1.

N. C. COTTON PROSPECTS DOWN, U. S. UP

Prospects for cotton production in North Carolina took a fairly sharp drop during September as severe drought conditions continued unabated in Piedmont areas and spread, with damaging effects into other cotton producing counties. The October 1 forecast is for an expected production of 365,000 (500-pounds gross weight) bales -- a 9 percent reduction from earlier estimates. Such a crop would be 19 percent, or 84,000 bales, under production last year and 28 percent, or 141,000 bales, less than the ten-year average production.

(See "COTTON" Page 2)

DROUGHT CONTINUES

This was one of the driest and hottest Septembers of record in North Carolina, and the end of the month found practically all areas of the State continuing to suffer from bone-dry soils. The only exceptions were in the east and in the extreme western mountain areas where showers had been fairly frequent. Pastures were burning up and hopes for recovery grew dimmer with the passing of each day. The situation was particularly acute in the southern Piedmont area where rainfall had been deficient throughout the entire summer. It is in this area that a number of counties have already been classified as emergency drought counties.

Tobacco harvest is virtually completed and growers are busy grading and marketing their flue-cured crop. As usual, these operations are retarding the harvest of corn and cotton.

(See "DROUGHT" Page 6)

TOBACCO (Continued from page 1)

Type 12 production is expected to total 475,950,000 pounds this season for a yield of 1,425 pounds per acre. This would mean the second heaviest crop of record and the second highest yield per acre of record, both having been surpassed in 1951 when total production went to 511 million pounds and the yield per acre reached 1,435 pounds.

The revised estimate of production in Type 13 areas now places the total poundage at 113,950,000 and the average yield per acre at 1,325. Such a crop is about 5 percent smaller than the 120,275,000 pounds sold in 1953 but is nearly 15 percent larger than the 1943-52 average.

By the end of September tobacco harvest was practically completed in all areas of the State and growers were busy grading and marketing the flue-cured crop. About a fourth of the Type 11 crop had been sold by this time, while close to three-fifths of Type 12 and nine-tenths of Type 13 had reached the markets.

Expected production from the State's Burley crop at 20,520,000 pounds was unchanged from a month earlier. A yield of 1,900 pounds per acre is in view for the 1954 crop which is the highest ever recorded.

For the United States, total flue-cured production for the 1954 season was estimated at 1,346,923,000 pounds as of October 1. This indicates a crop 5.9 percent larger than last year and 12.2 percent larger than the 10-year average.

COTTON (Continued from page 1)

The lack of moisture has caused a lot of bolls to fail to mature, especially in Piedmont counties and on the late planted cotton in eastern areas. Also, in the drier areas the mature bolls failed to reach normal size. However, early plantings in eastern counties generally are producing very good yields.

Harvesting of the 1954 crop is well advanced in all areas, with about 49 percent of the crop ginned to October 1.

Estimates by States are shown below:

COTTON ESTIMATES OCTOBER 1, 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	ACREAGE FOR HARVEST 1954 1/	OCTOBER 1 CONDITION			LINT YIELD PER HARVESTED ACRE			PRODUCTION (500#) 2/			GINNINGS TO OCT. 1
		AVERAGE 1943-1952	1953	1954	AVERAGE 1943-1952	1953	1954 INDICATED OCT. 1	AVERAGE 1943-1952	1953	1954 INDICATED OCT. 1	
	(000)	(Percent)			(Pounds)			(Thousand Bales)			
N. C.	571	73	68	76	340	278	307	506	449	365	180
S. C.	858	70	74	61	312	281	269	693	690	480	354
GA.	1,105	70	74	64	252	262	256	705	752	590	483
TENN.	658	74	71	68	357	354	365	544	702	500	235
ALA.	1,214	72	77	65	286	285	277	907	963	700	557
MISS.	1,913	72	86	68	336	410	370	1,664	2,129	1,475	832
MO.	456	75	73	79	368	386	411	343	449	390	180
ARK.	1,705	70	73	64	332	358	334	1,343	1,548	1,185	566
LA.	689	71	81	69	327	407	369	585	806	530	339
OKLA.	935	58	69	45	152	205	133	385	437	280	72
TEX.	7,624	70	70	68	182	233	225	3,239	4,317	3,575	1,666
N.MEX.	201	86	90	97	498	497	609	195	327	255	43
ARIZ.	403	89	93	94	555	743	869	387	1,070	730	107
CALIF.	882	92	86	96	624	632	778	905	1,768	1,430	56
OTHERS 3/	71	-	-	-	288	242	314	47	58	46	21
U. S.	19,285	72	77	71	272.1	324.2	311	12,448	16,465	12,511	5,691

1/ September 1 estimate. 2/ Production ginned and to be ginned. A 500-pound bale contains about 480 net pounds of lint. 3/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Kansas, and Nevada.

SOYBEANS ABOVE LAST YEAR

The North Carolina soybean crop is forecast at 4,769,000 bushels as of October 1. This is an increase of 25 percent over the 1953 crop of 3,814,000 bushels. If the present estimate materializes, this year's crop will be the largest crop since 1951 when production totaled 5,098,000 bushels.

On the basis of reports made by growers, the yield per acre is forecast at 16.5 bushels. This exceeds the 1953 average yield by two bushels and equals the record yield of 16.5 bushels set in 1951 and 1952. The major portion of the soybean crop is produced in Coastal Plains counties and these counties have received more rainfall than the Piedmont section of the State. Dry weather did cause some shedding of blooms; however, a good set of beans is evident over most of the commercial area.

PEANUT PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

Based on reports received from growers as of October 1, the 1954 peanut crop in North Carolina is estimated at 261,950,000 pounds. A crop of this size would be 3 percent below the 1953 crop of 270,810,000 pounds.

Current prospects indicate a yield of 1,550 pounds per acre -- this is unchanged from a month earlier. Scattered rains fell over much of the commercial area during September, allowing most of the crop to mature without being damaged heavily by dry weather. If realized, this yield would be the second highest of record, being exceeded only by 1952 when the average yield was 1,590 pounds per acre.

SWEETPOTATO ESTIMATE LOWER

The 1954 North Carolina sweetpotato crop is estimated at 3,600,000 bushels as of October 1. A crop of this size, if realized, would be the second smallest production since 1871 when growers harvested 3,569,000 bushels. Due to smaller acreage, the 1951 crop was even below current prospects, as production totaled 3,478,000 bushels.

Continued dry weather before and during the maturing season has resulted in lower yield expectations, and present prospects are for a yield of 90 bushels per acre compared with 105 last year.

SORGHUM GRAIN YIELD DROPS

The indicated yield per acre of sorghum for grain declined from 27 bushels as of September 1 to 23 bushels as of October 1. Dry weather combined with high temperatures during most of September retarded plant growth, reduced size of heads and increased the proportion of shriveled grains.

The current Tar Heel sorghum grain crop is forecast at 1,978,000 bushels. This compares with production in 1953 of 1,416,000 bushels. Increased production during the current year is due to a rather sharp increase in acreage to be harvested.

The U. S. crop is estimated at 147,323,000 bushels compared with 109,022,000 bushels last year.

HAY CROP BELOW AVERAGE

Production of all hay in N. C. is currently estimated at 1,205,000 tons. This compares with 1,145,000 tons saved last year and with 1,287,000 tons representing the 1943-52 average production.

PECANS DECLINE

Estimated production of North Carolina's pecan crop is currently set at 2,160,000 pounds -- 43 percent below last year's production of 3,780,000 pounds. The continued hot, dry weather during September caused some shedding and as a result the October 1 estimate was 190,000 pounds below the estimate a month earlier.

Production in the State this year will run about 1,740,000 pounds of improved varieties and about 420,000 pounds wild and seedlings

BIG APPLE CROP

Based upon October 1 reports from growers, commercial apple production in N. C. is expected to total 2,100,000 bushels this year. Such a crop is 120,000 bushels short of the crop forecast a month ago but, if realized, will still be the heaviest crop harvested since comparable records began in 1934. Last year, a relatively light crop of 873,000 bushels was harvested. The 1943-52 average production for the State is 1,172,000 bushels.

NORTH CAROLINA

ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, OCTOBER 1, 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1943-52	Harvested 1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954
Corn, All	Bu.	2,220	2,137	2,137	27.9	27.0	25.0	61,914	57,699	53,425
Sorghums, All Uses	-	35	77	112	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum Grain	Bu.	1/ 18	59	86	1/ 26.5	24.0	23.0	1/ 486	1,416	1,978
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	416	400	316	16.7	20.5	21.5	6,915	8,200	6,794
Oats	Bu.	363	418	481	29.4	38.5	38.5	10,749	16,093	18,518
Barley	Bu.	38	44	53	27.2	37.5	35.0	1,035	1,650	1,855
Rye	Bu.	24	16	19	12.4	14.5	14.0	284	232	266
Tobacco: Type 11	Lbs.	269.2	258.0	266.0	1,104	1,015	1,225	297,774	261,870	325,850
Type 12	Lbs.	337.2	331.0	334.0	1,219	1,360	1,425	411,216	450,160	475,950
Type 13	Lbs.	83.2	85.0	86.0	1,190	1,415	1,325	99,429	120,275	113,950
All Flue-cured	Lbs.	689.6	674.0	686.0	1,171	1,235	1,335	808,419	832,305	915,750
Type 31, Burley	Lbs.	10.9	11.4	10.8	1,540	1,800	1,900	16,824	20,520	20,520
Cotton	Lbs.	718	782	571	340	278	307	2/ 506	2/ 449	2/ 365
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	400	397	413	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans	Bu.	254	263	289	13.8	14.5	16.5	3,559	3,814	4,768
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes	-	286	184	175	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed	Lbs.	269	177	169	1,139	1,530	1,550	300,811	270,810	261,950
Irish Potatoes, All	Bu.	69	46	40	134	133	146	9,095	3/ 6,118	5,840
Sweet Potatoes, All	Bu.	56	45	40	106	105	90	5,983	4,725	3,600
Hay: All	Tons	1,270	1,164	1,224	1.01	.98	.98	1,287	1,145	1,205
Clover & Timothy 4/	Tons	97	98	92	1.14	1.10	1.10	110	108	101
Alfalfa	Tons	36	70	78	2.10	2.00	2.00	76	140	156
Lespedeza	Tons	516	488	532	1.07	.85	.85	554	415	452
Pasture, Condition	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	54	47
Peaches, All	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,649	1,180	1,150
Apples, Commercial 5/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,172	873	2,100
Pears, All	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	158	134	125
Grapes, All	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.5	2.5	2.8
Pecans: All	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,305	3,780	2,160
Wild or Seedling	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	233	605	420
Improved	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,072	3,175	1,740

1/ Short-time average. 2/ 500 lb. gross weight bales. 3/ Includes 105,000 bushels commercial early potatoes not marketed. 4/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay. 5/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas.

UNITED STATES

ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, OCTOBER 1, 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1943-52	Harvested 1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954
Corn, All	Bu.	85,820	80,279	80,164	35.7	39.6	36.8	3,057,464	3,176,615	2,949,643
Sorghums, All Uses	-	13,681	12,397	18,489	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum Grain	Bu.	7,254	6,137	8,938	18.2	17.8	16.5	134,600	109,022	147,323
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	46,716	46,681	38,090	17.7	18.8	20.4	832,977	877,511	775,900
Wheat, All	Bu.	66,025	67,608	53,726	17.0	17.3	17.9	1,121,506	1,168,536	959,258
Oats	Bu.	39,526	39,358	41,980	33.3	30.9	35.9	1,316,359	1,216,416	1,506,213
Barley	Bu.	10,960	8,534	12,885	25.3	28.2	28.5	274,955	241,015	367,092
Rye	Bu.	1,867	1,382	1,706	11.9	13.0	13.7	22,149	17,998	23,293
Tobacco: Flue-cured	Lbs.	1,028.8	1,021.8	1,039.0	1,164	1,245	1,296	1,199,981	1,272,200	1,346,923
Burley	Lbs.	452.5	422.7	396.3	1,234	1,348	1,427	558,923	569,868	565,637
All Types	Lbs.	1,716.8	1,634.2	1,631.8	1,183	1,259	1,319	2,033,432	2,057,221	2,153,023
Cotton	Lbs.	22,428	25,244	19,285	272.1	324.2	311	1/ 12,448	1/ 16,465	1/ 12,511
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	13,523	16,085	18,825	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans	Bu.	11,559	14,366	17,329	19.9	18.3	19.1	230,649	262,341	331,271
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes	-	3,424	1,882	1,914	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed	Lbs.	2,762	1,514	1,513	742	1,031	716	1,979,865	1,588,415	1,083,130
Irish Potatoes, All	Bu.	2,138.3	1,508.3	1,380.9	202.3	247.8	250.5	409,027	373,711	345,939
Sweet Potatoes, All	Bu.	547.1	349.7	345.5	92.9	97.2	83.1	50,637	33,974	28,722
Hay: All	Tons	74,629	73,918	75,984	1.37	1.42	1.39	101,959	105,300	105,787
Alfalfa	Tons	16,196	20,269	22,716	2.21	2.19	2.14	35,759	44,374	48,628
Clover & Timothy 2/	Tons	22,208	20,761	19,717	1.41	1.44	1.42	31,236	29,851	27,997
Lespedeza	Tons	6,521	4,653	5,174	1.05	.89	.71	6,851	4,129	3,654
Pasture, Condition	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	56	63
Peaches, All 3/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,596	64,473	61,252
Apples, Commercial 3/ 4/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,802	92,877	103,011
Pears, All	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,466	29,081	29,954
Grapes, All	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,951	2,696	2,693
Pecans: All	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	133,575	211,660	91,252
Wild or Seedling	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	73,098	108,755	49,412
Improved	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,477	102,905	41,840

1/ 500 Lb. gross weight bales. 2/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay. 3/ Production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions. 4/ Estimates of commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the Commercial areas of each state.

RECORD EGG PRODUCTION

Laying flocks in North Carolina laid an estimated 109 million eggs during September -- the highest September production of record. Production during the month was 4 million above that for August and 10 million above that for September, 1953. There were 8,608,000 layers on hand during September -- 3 percent above the number on hand a year earlier.

U. S. farm flocks laid 4.6 billion eggs in September, a record high production for the month -- 10 percent more than a year earlier and 28 percent above average.

POULTRY AND EGGS: Large U. S. production of eggs for this time of year and seasonally increasing supplies of poultry meat have been holding down prices for these commodities.

N. C. WAGE RATES UP

Wage rates paid by North Carolina farmers on October 1, 1954 were somewhat higher than a year earlier. The farm wage rate index for the Tar Heel State was 616 on October 1, 1953 and 617 on October 1 this year. Lower hourly rates off-set, to some extent, the increased daily rates.

For the South Atlantic States rates were generally lower as the composite index dropped 9 points during the year.

FARM WAGE RATES

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	Oct. 1 1953	Oct. 1 1954
NORTH CAROLINA		
Per Day:		
With House.....	$ 4.30	$ 4.40
Without Board Or Room..	5.00	5.10
Per Hour:		
Without Board Or Room..	.60	.59
Index Of Composite Rates* (Percent)	616	617
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES		
Per Day:		
With House.....	4.05	4.05
Without Board Or Room..	4.75	4.75
Per Hour:		
Without Board Or Room..	.61	.60
Index Of Composite Rates* (Percent)	596	587

*Percent of 1910-14 average adjusted for seasonal variation.

RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Estimated production of milk on farms in North Carolina during September totaled 154 million pounds -- the highest of record for the month. The September flow reflected a seasonal decline of 11 million pounds from the 165 million milked during the previous month but was 5 million above the 149 million pounds produced during September 1953.

In September, milk production on U. S. farms totaled 9.4 billion pounds. Output was greater than September of last year by 1 percent and has been exceeded in only two other Septembers -- 1942 and 1945.

DAIRY: Farm output of milk in the Nation during the first 8 months of 1954 totaled 88.2 billion pounds compared with 85.8 billion a year earlier.

DROUGHT (Continued From Page 1)

A very large percentage of the cotton crop is opened. The crop was about one-half ginned by October 1, and unpicked fields are snowy-white. In most of the fields harvest is being completed in one operation. Good yields have been produced in eastern and central areas, but damage in the southern Piedmont has been quite severe.

A comparatively poor corn crop is practically all matured. Picking is under way in the eastern commercial areas where some fair yields are being realized. In the non-commercial areas much of the acreage is a complete failure as far as production of grain is concerned.

By the end of the first full week in October digging of peanuts was getting well under way in the northeastern commercial counties and was well advanced in the southeast where the crop is of comparatively little importance.

Hay yields have been definitely cut short by the droughty conditions and much of the unharvested crop offers prospects for very poor yields.

Harvest of a good apple crop is making rapid progress, but the final outturn may not be quite as large as was first anticipated. The pecan crop also appears to be below earlier expectations as harvest time approaches.

HONEY PRODUCTION UP

The 1954 honey crop in North Carolina is estimated at 4,825,000 pounds -- 26 percent above the 3,820,000 pounds produced in 1953. Reports from producers in the State indicate that production per colony will be 25 pounds this year compared to 20 pounds in 1953. This year's honey crop is being produced by 193,000 colonies of bees -- 1 percent more than in 1953.

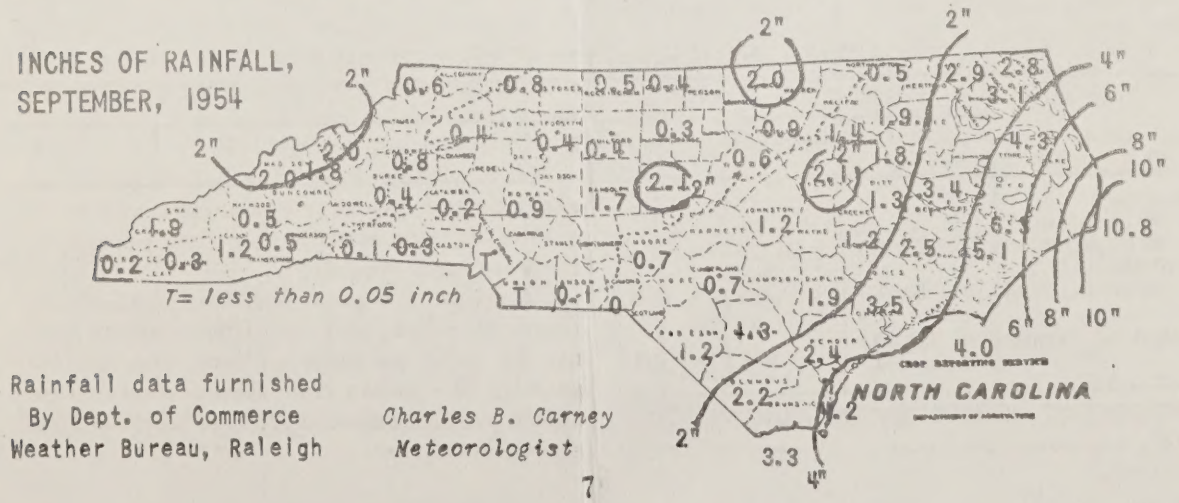
Total production for the U. S. is expected to be 213,658,000 pounds -- 5 percent less than last year's crop.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER, 1954

Highlights of North Carolina weather in September, as during the whole summer, were the heat and the drought. Both features were most prominent in the Piedmont and least so along the coast. Hurricane Edna and lesser offshore disturbances caused a great deal of cloudiness and rain over the period from the 10th through the 22nd, reducing the heat somewhat and completely obscuring the general drought condition. The effect of these storms was slight over the inner half of the Coastal Plain, however, and negligible over the rest of the State. High pressure centered inland, often directly over the State, dominated the weather most of the month. Some inland stations reported as many as eleven days of unbroken sunshine, with 85 percent of all daylight hours sunny.

Hot weather prevailed over inland North Carolina during most of September, with average temperatures from three to five degrees above normal. The hottest period centered around the 6th of the month, when afternoon temperatures at many places reached their highest point in September weather history. Practically all stations in the Piedmont and a few places in the mountains reached 100 degrees or higher, while as high as 106 was reported in the interior Coastal Plain. This hot spell lasted until about the tenth, and another week-long hot period reached its peak around the 19th; a third was in progress as the month ended. There were two to three times as many days reaching 90 or higher than is usual in September. Nights were less extreme, with temperatures usually dropping into the 60's each morning.

Total rainfall reported for the month of September ranged from none at all at Hamlet up to nearly eleven inches at Hatteras. The immediate coastal area was fairly well watered as a result of a series of offshore storm situations, but the rest of the State was extremely dry. The southern Piedmont was the driest, with several counties having no rain of consequence during the entire month. The average over all stations reporting in the Piedmont and Mountain sections did not exceed an inch, with a third of the stations having less than a half inch. Over the Coastal Plain there was a gradual decrease from the heavy rains along the coast to less than an inch during the month at points farthest inland. Most of the rain over the interior came in showers around the 20th of the month.



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist

FARM REPORT

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N. C. STOCKS OF CORN AND WHEAT LOW

Farm stocks of old corn in N. C. on October 1 which totaled nearly 3.6 million bushels was about 14 percent greater than farm stocks held on October 1, 1953 but was 30 percent smaller than the 1943-52 average for the date. Total stocks of oats on farms at 10.4 million bushels and barley at 1.1 million bushels were both above last year and the 10-year average. On the other hand, farm stocks of wheat at 3.3 million bushels were below those of a year ago and, also, slightly below average.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS OCTOBER 1

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954
	--Thousand Bushels--					
Corn 1/	5,108	3,144	3,571	301,818	329,625	357,950
Wheat	3,390	4,182	3,261	520,317	563,569	436,769
Oats	5,620	9,012	10,370	1,060,706	984,324	1,191,309
Barley	594	908	1,076	168,071	148,842	225,104
Rye	145	116	146	11,162	10,470	14,522
Soybeans 1/	57	24	4	2,650	5,755	520
Sorghum 1/	2/	2/	2/	3/ 5,532	3,416	3,168

1/ Old crops of corn, soybeans, sorghum grain. 2/ Not available. 3/ 1947-52 average.